



## Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

Fall is a bewitching time of year not only because of Halloween. It is also a time when a handful of Americans are awakened from sleep by a voice telling them that they will be awarded a Nobel Prize. For this month's enewsletter we feature two women who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize: Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch.

Jane Addams is a name that resonates with many members of the public. She is most well-known for establishing a settlement house in Chicago, called Hull House. After visiting a similar facility while in Europe, Addams and her friend Ellen Starr decided to start a center that would serve to improve the lives of those living in the neighborhood, and provide educational and philanthropic services.

The services at Hull House ranged the full gamut: from kindergarten to night school classes for adults, an art gallery, a coffee house, a gymnasium, a kitchen, a music school and a library.

In addition to being an ardent feminist and suffragist in the years before women were enfranchised, Addams became involved in the peace movement. In 1913, she gave a speech commemorating the Peace Palace built in The Hague; she also campaigned against U.S. entry into World War I. She became first the president of the Women's Peace Party, then the International Congress of Women, and then its offshoot - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She assisted President Herbert Hoover by providing relief supplies to



Jane Addams

women and children in many nations around the world. Addams was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Emily Greene Balch

The name of Emily Greene Balch is much less known to most of the public. Her receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 was not a cause of celebration for the U.S. government - which regarded her as a dangerous radical. Balch had declared herself a socialist in 1906 and was a comrade of Jane Addams during World War I urging the heads of states of neutral countries to intervene and stop the war. Balch spent much of her career at Wellesley College where she rose to the level of professor of economics and sociology; until her contract was terminated by the trustees.

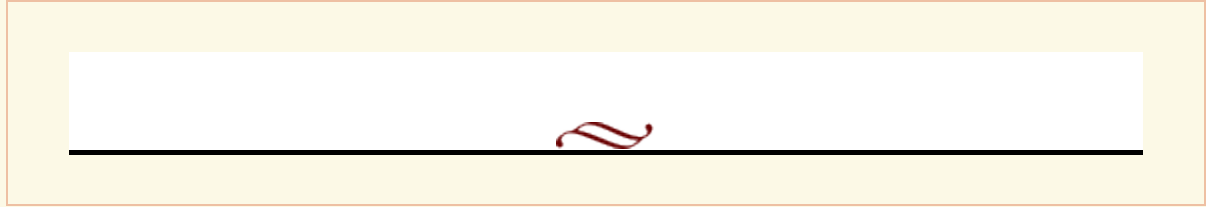
In 1935, Balch became the leader of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, a position that Jane Addams had held for many years. Balch warned against fascism and criticized western nations for not attempting to stop the policies of Hitler and Mussolini. During the period between the two world wars, Balch worked on many projects with the League of Nations including disarmament and drug control. After World War II, she worked on the internationalization of waterways and aviation, as she saw this as a route to worldwide peace.

Addams and Balch - and other Nobel Laureates - are profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. We salute their accomplishments and are proud to continue telling their stories.

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**Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America**  
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